

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /132 W

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R 221718Z AUG 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 402

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PASS STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD; GATT

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN NTM PROPOSAL

1. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION HAS ONCE AGAIN RAISED ITS PROPOSAL WITH USDEL TO INCLUDE NTM'S INFORMATION IN TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE. WE HAVE NOW SEEN DRAFT OF PAPER AUSTRALIANS ARE PREPARING FOR FALL NTM MEETING CONTAINING THEIR PROPOSAL (POUCHED TO STR).

2. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION PROPOSES THAT THE MTN TARIFF RATE INFORMATION FILE BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE INDICATORS OF PARTICULAR NTMS WHICH RELATE DIRECTLY TO INDIVIDUAL TARIFF LINES. NTM CATEGORIES TO BE INITIALLY INCLUDED WOULD ENCOMPASS 14 CATEGORIES OF MEASURES AGREED IN JOINT WORKING GROUP ON IMPORT RESTRICTION DOCUMENTATION (COM.IND/W/116, COM.AG/W/93, PG. 3) AND MEASURES

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COVERED IN PARTS 1, 4 AND 5 OF NTB INVENTORY. LINE

ITEMS WOULD BE CODED TO INDICATE EXISTENCE OF A SPECIFIC NTM.

3. THE FILE WOULD COVER ALL PRODUCTS AND BE PREPARED BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT. DATA WOULD BE INCLUDED IN FILE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH COUNTRIES NOTIFIED AGAINST IN THESE SOURCES. IT IS NOT PROPOSED THAT INFORMATION ON EXTENT OR LEVEL OF ANY MEASURE BE INCLUDED IN FILE. IT IS UNCLEAR FROM AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL WHAT FORM THE CONSULTATION WOULD TAKE, OR IF COUNTRIES COULD VETO INCLUSION OF DATA IN FILE.

4. AUSTRALIANS HAVE INFORMALLY INDICATED THAT THEY WILL BE UNWILLING TO CONTINUE WORK ON TARIFF RATE FILE UNLESS THEIR PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED. THEY ADD, HOWEVER, THAT IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED TO BEGIN WORK ON THEIR PROPOSAL THE WORK ON THE TARIFF RATE FILE WOULD NOT BE DELAYED BY THE ADDITIONAL NTM WORK. THEY HAVE INDICATED AT OTHER TIMES, HOWEVER, THAT SUBMISSION OF AUSTRALIAN DATA FOR TARIFF RATE FILE DEPENDS UPON SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF BASE RATE/BASE DATE ISSUE.

5. USDEL BELIEVES PROPOSAL IS BASICALLY MAKE WORK PROJECT OF LITTLE OR NO VALUE. PROPOSAL, IF ADOPTED, WOULD ALSO TAX LIMITED SECRETARIAT STAFF AND LIKELY DIVERT THEIR WORK FROM SECTORAL STUDIES WE HOPE TO HAVE UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT. ON OTHER HAND, IF AUSTRALIANS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL SUBMIT TARIFF RATE INFORMATION IF THEIR PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED, WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SOME LIMITED INCLUSION OF NTM DATA. THE COSTS OF AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST THE VALUE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE TARIFF RATE WORK. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT AT JUNE NTM GROUP MEETING PROPOSAL DID NOT RECEIVE SUPPORT OF ANY MAJOR DELEGATION. WALKER

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